

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed April 27, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 15, 27, 37, 42-44, and 49-51 have been amended. Claims 52-69 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 41 and 48 have been cancelled. Claims 1-28, 30-40, 42-47, and 49-69 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on February 4, 2003. Upon review of the returned Form 1449, it appears that a reference listed under "Foreign Patent Documents" was inadvertently not initialed (WO 01/63893 on page 2). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner kindly return a completed initialed copy of the Form 1449 with the next communication.

In addition, the Examiner noted on a returned Form 1449, mailing date of January 7, 2001, that one reference was not received. Applicants have herewith re-submitted the reference for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully request return of a copy of the initialed 1449 Form after the Examiner has had an opportunity to review the re-submitted reference.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner rejected claim 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Guenther et al. (U.S. Patent 6,438,226 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Guenther discloses a splitter assembly 10 including a terminal block 18 pivotally mounted to a housing 12, and cards 40 positionable within the housing 12. The cards 40 include xDSL splitter circuitry components 42. The cards 40 (also 103 in FIG. 7) are connected to the terminal block 18 by wires 114.

Guenther does not disclose a plurality of interface cards as characterized in claim 51. In particular, the interface cards of claim 51 each include first, second, and third cable connectors mounted adjacent the first end of a circuit board. Guenther does not disclose first, second, and third connectors mounted on a circuit board. Rather, the three connectors to which the Examiner refers, i.e., 70, 72, 74 are lines that connect to the terminal block 18,

not the circuit board/card 40. More specifically, the terminal block 18 includes an array 24 of terminals 26 and is pivotally mounted to the housing 12. Column 4, lines 53-58. The array 24 includes, for example, a POTS field 60, an xDSL field 62, and a jumper field 64 to which each of the lines 70, 72, and 74 are connected. Columns 5-6, lines 55-2. The lines 70, 72, 74 connect to the pivoting terminal block 18, which is mounted to the housing. The lines 70, 72, 74 are not mounted to a circuit board of an interface card, as required by claim 52.

In addition, claim 51 recites that the three cable connectors are mounted adjacent a first end of the circuit board, and one or more card edge connectors are mounted adjacent a second end of the circuit board. Guenther does not disclose both cable (three each) and card edge connectors mounted on opposite ends of a circuit board.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 51 is patentable.

### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 9-11, 13-14, 15-17, 19-22, 28, 31-37, 39, 41-44, 46, 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guenther et al (U.S. Patent 6,438,226 B1) in view of Lemke (U.S. Patent 4,824,383). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claims 1, 15, 37, 42-44, 49 and 50, and cancelled claims 41 and 48 to advance this case to allowance.

#### **A. Claims 1-3, 9-11, 13-17, 19-22, 37, 39, and 41-43**

Claims 1, 15, and 37 each recite first, second, and third cable connectors mounted on or to a circuit board. For similar reasons as discussed with regards to claim 51, Applicants submit neither Guenther nor Lemke teach or suggest three connectors mounted on a circuit board, or mounted to a circuit board, as recited in claims 1, 15, and 37. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15, and 37, and dependent claims 2-3, 9-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-22, 39, and 42-43 are patentable.

B. Claim 28

Claim 28 recites a splitter card having first and second card extensions adapted to be received in a card edge connector. The first card extension includes first and second contacts and the second card extension includes third contacts. All of the first and second contacts are located at the first extension, and all of the third contacts are located at the second extension, wherein the first and second contacts are grouped together at a location separate from the third contact.

Guenther does not teach or suggest first and second card extensions wherein all of first and second contacts are grouped together at a location separate from third contacts. Guenther instead discloses wires 88, 116 that connect the card 40, 103 to the terminal block 18. Although Guenther discloses lines (i.e. 70, 72, 75 in FIGS. 10 and 11) being routed from the board 40 to different locations, the contacts 80, 82, 85 are still grouped together on the card 40. The contacts 80, 82, 85, for example, are not located on different extensions such that first and second contacts are grouped together at a location separate from the third contact. Instead, all the contacts are grouped together.

Where Guenther fails to teach or suggest separately grouped contacts, Lemke fails to make up for Guenther's deficiencies. At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 28 is patentable.

C. Claims 31-34

Claim 31 recites a telecommunications component including first and second card edge connectors connected to a circuit board. The first card edge connector has exclusively normally closed contacts, and the second card edge connector has exclusively normally open contacts.

Similarly, claim 33 recites a telecommunications chassis including first and second rows of first and second card edge connectors. The first card edge connectors have exclusively normally closed contacts, and the second card edge connectors have exclusively normally open contacts.

The Examiner noted on page 12 of the Office Action that pending claim 5 identifies a uniquely distinct feature of the splitter architecture. Claims 31 and 33 each recite similar subject matter to that of claim 5 in that the first and second card edge

connectors have exclusively normally closed contacts and exclusively normally open contacts. At least for the reasons of patentability as applied to claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 31 and 33, and dependent claims 32 and 34 are patentable.

D. Claims 35 and 36

Claim 35 recites a telecommunications chassis assembly having a first array of card edge connectors and a second array of card edge connectors. Line and voice connectors are connected exclusively to the first array of card edge connectors, and Data connectors are connected exclusively to the second array of card edge connectors.

Neither Guenther nor Lemke teach or suggest first and second arrays of card extension having specific and exclusive electrical connections as recited in claim 35. If the Examiner maintains this rejection, Applicants respectfully request that a more detailed basis for the rejection be provided.

At least because neither Guenther nor Lemke teach or suggest the exclusive electrically connection limitation recited in claim 35, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 35, and dependent claim 36 are patentable.

E. Claims 44, 46, and 49-50

Claim 44 recites a telecommunications component having first, second, and third cable connectors mounted to a circuit board adjacent the back end of the circuit board. One or more card edge connectors are mounted to the circuit board adjacent the front end of the circuit board.

Guenther does not teach or suggest three cable connectors mounted to a circuit board. Rather, the three connectors to which the Examiner refers, i.e., 70, 72, 74 are lines that connect to the pivoting terminal block 18, not the circuit board/card 40. In addition, Guenther does not teach or suggest both cable (three each) and card edge connectors mounted on opposite front and back ends of a circuit board. At least for reasons similar to those discussed with regards to claim 51, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 44, and dependent claims 46 and 49-50 are patentable.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner objected to claim 4-8, 12, 18, 23-27, 30, 38, 40, 45, 47 but indicated that claim 4-8, 12, 18, 23-27, 30, 38, 40, 45, 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

Claim 27 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Each of new claims 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 64, and 65 respectively incorporates the subject matter of objected-to claims 4, 5, 12, 18, 23, 38, and 40, any intervening claims, and the respective base claim. Claims 54-56 and 60-63 correspond to objected-to claims 6-8 and 24-27. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 52-65 are in condition for allowance.

### **New Claims 66-69**

Each of new claims 66-68 respectively depends upon independent claims 31, 33, and 35. In light of the comment regarding claims 31, 33, and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 66-68 are patentable.

New claim 69 recites a telecommunications chassis assembly having a plurality of backplane circuit boards and a plurality of splitter cards. Each of the backplane circuit boards and the splitter cards are mounted perpendicular to a back plane of a chassis. The backplane circuit boards include first, second, and third cable connectors mounted on a first edge of the backplane circuit board. The assembly further includes a plurality of card edge connectors arranged to electrically interconnect each of the backplane circuit boards with one of the plurality of splitter cards. The card edge connectors include a first card edge connector piece mounted on a second opposite edge of the backplane circuit board, and a second card edge connector piece mounted on the splitter card.

None of the cited references discloses a chassis assembly as recited in claim 69. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 69 is patentable.

### SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-28, 30-40, 42-47, and 49-69) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

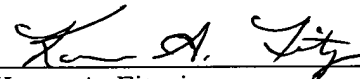
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



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Respectfully submitted,

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